

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HAVANA 00921 240048Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /096 W
-----007688 240053Z /66

P R 222127Z DEC 77
FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 798
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 0921

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV MILI XJ CU RH
SUBJ: VISIT OF JOSHUA NKOMO

1. GRANMA, DECEMBER 22, ANNOUNCES THAT ZAPU LEADER JOSHUA NKOMO ARRIVED PREVIOUS DAY IN HAVANA AT INVITATION OF CUBAN CP. (COMMENT: CUBANS CONTINUE TO LABEL NKOMO SPECIFICALLY AS CHIEF OF ZAPU, AS WELL AS CO-DIRECTOR OF PATRIOTIC FRONT.) NKOMO MET AT AIRPORT BY CP SECRETARIAT MEMBER RAUL GARCIA PELAEZ, WHO NORMALLY DEALS ONLY WITH FOREIGN COMMUNIST PARTIES. (COMMENT: WE READ THIS NOT NECESSARILY AS AN INDICATION OF CUBAN VIEW OF ZAPU IDEOLOGICAL STANCE, BUT RATHER AS SIGN THAT APPROPRIATE SECRETARIAT CONFRERE, RAUL VALDEZ VIVO, MAY BE OUT OF COUNTRY, POSSIBLY ACCOMPANYING CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ OR RAUL CASTRO.) IN ADDITION TO FOREIGN MINISTRY AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE PERSONNAL AT AIRPORT, A CUBAN MILITARY OFFICIAL, COLONEL GUSTAVO CHUI, ALSO GREETED NKOMO.

2. COMMENT: NKOMO VISIT COINCIDES WITH GROWING CUBAN CRITICISM
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OF ANGLO-AMERICAN RHODESIAN INITIATIVE, SMITH TALKS WITH MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE, AND KUANDA MOVES TO EASE PATRIOTIC FRONT INTO POWER WITHOUT ELECTIONS. PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED PRESENCE OF CUBAN MILITARY OFFICER AT AIRPORT SUGGESTS THAT HAVANA MAY AGREE TO INCREASE ITS MILITARY SUPPORT FOR ZAPU IN ORDER BOTH TO MAKE ZIMBABWE "INTERNAL SOLUTION" A NON-VIABLE OPTION AND TO STRENGTHEN NKOMO VIS-A-VIS MUGABE. (PATRIOTIC FRONT REPRESENTATIVE HERE, A

NKOMO PROTEGE, IN ADDITION TO DAMNING ANGLO-US INITIATIVE, HAS RECENTLY BEEN RAILING AGAINST TANZANIAN PRESIDENT NYERERE FOR HIS "TREACHERY" IN SEEKING TO "PUSH MUZOREWA INTO POWER"-- AN ACCUSATION THAT ALSO MAY BE INTENDED TO APPLY TO NYERERE COOPERATION WITH MOZAMBIQUE-BASED ZANU CADRES. IN THIS REGARD, WE NOTE THAT CUBANS AND PATRIOTIC FRONT REPRESENTATIVE HERE DID NOT STRONGLY CRITICIZE RHODESIAN ATTACKS ON ZANU CAMPS. CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT WAS ONLY BRIEF FOUR PARAGRAPHS LONG--SEE HAVANA 784. SENIOR GOC OFFICIAL ALSO RECENTLY STATED THAT CUBA HAS NOT ATTENDED SAMORA MACHEL'S REQUEST FOR MAJOR NEW ASSISTANCE.)

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Message Attributes

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